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ABSTRACT

This booklet contains profiles of 15 persons working in jobs nontraditional for their sex in the vicinity of Muskogee, Oklahoma. The one-page profiles are all written by the persons holding the jobs and include such information as educational background, job searches, acceptance on the job, and future plans. Photographs of each person on the job are included. Persons whose stories are told in the booklet include a female telephone installer, a female upholsterer, a female assistant professor of education/psychology, a female elementary school principal, a male telephone operator, a male cosmetologist, a female security officer, a male high school teacher, a male hospital cook, a female wallpaper hanger, a female dermatologist, a male nurse, a female county clerk, a female high school senior who is in Future Farmers of America, and a female motel manager. (KC)

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"NON-TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING, TAKE IT FROM US, STUDENTS. . . . YOU CAN SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY!"

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QUITY

CE 038 887

This project funded by Oklahoma State Department of Vo-Tech Education
Educational Equity Service

Muskogee High School

1980-81 Cooperative Office Education Project

Would you like to be a male nurse; a female administrator; a male telephone operator; or, a female carpenter?

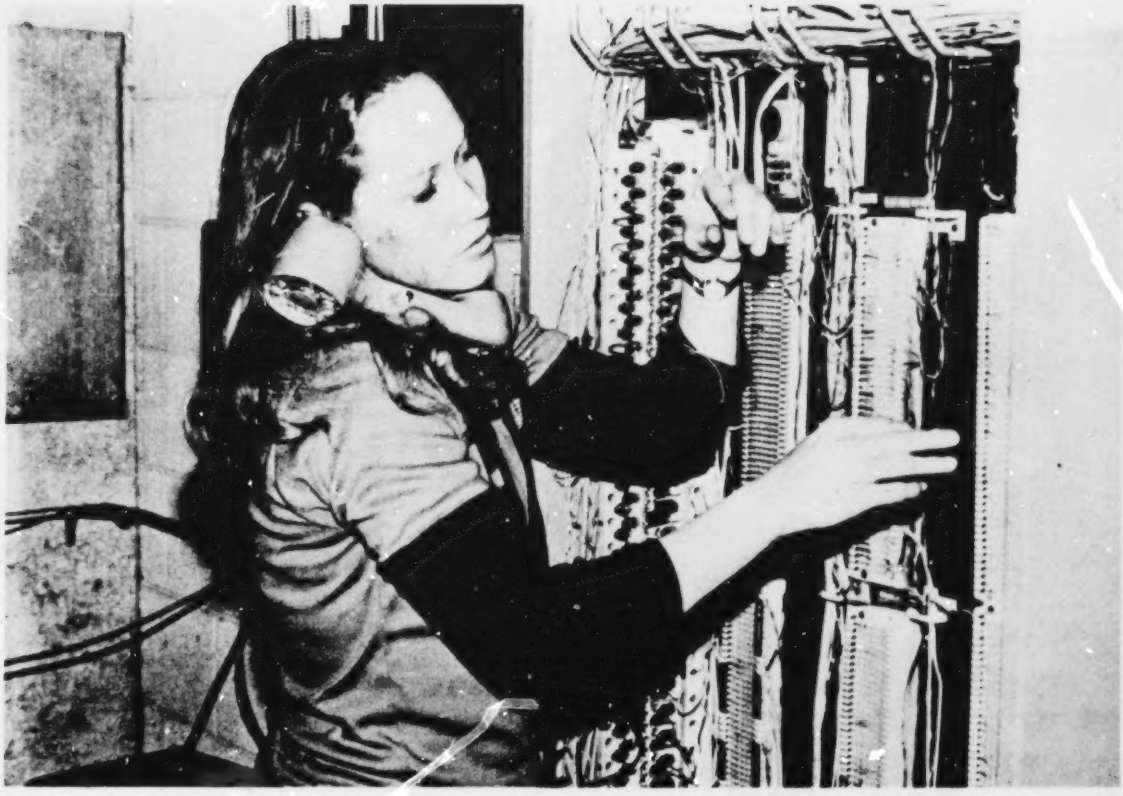
Don't think that just because you're a female you can't hold a position as a telephone installer; because you're a male, you can't be a beautician. This booklet contains 15 local models who have paved the way for you.

Don't think you can't do it. Take it from them--you can! Because they were once like you. Now they are all employees on non-traditional jobs right here in your hometown.

The work they do is fun and exciting! And more jobs like theirs are waiting for you. Turn the pages and find out what our local non-traditional employees are doing. If you're interested, we will tell you how to find out more about careers in non-traditional jobs.

DeRutha Richardson

DeRutha Richardson
Teacher/Coordinator and Project Developer



"I've always been an outdoor person. My employment with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company provides me with plenty of outdoor experiences".

The opportunities are great for women who desire to work for Southwestern Bell. The company provides all of its employees with steady, good benefits.

There is a course offered for every job. Employees must pass a test for each course related to his/her job description. For example, I received training at a center in Oklahoma City, and had to pass tests in pole climbing and electricity, to mention a few. Practical knowledge, however, was obtained from on-the-job training.

While I was in high school, I aspired to become a veterinarian, but was inspired by friends to pursue my present line of work. Math and science subjects taken in high school helped me greatly.

I've always been an outdoor person, and being a telephone installer, having to climb poles, and always being transit from job to job, feed my outdoor ego.

My work load consists of the installation of approximately 16 telephones per day; customer service; repair work, etc.

In 1972, I started as a telephone operator, working in this capacity for 2 1/2 years. Since 1975 I have worked as telephone installer. My load is from 8:00 a.m. until the last job is completed for the day. I proudly work from Monday to Friday, occasionally on Saturdays.

I am married, have three children, and my entire family agree with me that this is a "fantastic" job.

I am 27 years old, and find that life and my line of work get better with each passing day.

Toni Asay

Toni Asay
Southwestern Bell Telephone Installer

"It's amazing what beautiful fabrics can do to a piece of furniture."

Upholstery work is an art. It can be a hobby, or it can be a source of ones livelihood.

If you have a love to sew, and have an eye for beautiful fabrics, you can turn a piece of old furniture into a new, more valuable piece, or a room or houseful into a showplace.

Doing upholstery work is indeed a trade; one that will be popular as long as fabric furniture is a part of our household decor, and it will be for a long time to come.

I learned this trade from my father, who was a proprietor of his own furniture refinishing and upholstery shop.

Many of our vocational schools offer upholstering classes as part of their curriculum.

It does not take a genius to learn the trade; but some jobs require long tedius hours of concentrative work.

Students should take advantage of high school course offerings, vocational, non-vocational, and trade schools.

Obtaining a good education should be the goal of every child in America.

Even though I obtained only a high school education, the trade that I learned will be one that I will have for a lifetime, whether as a hobby or as a livelihood.

Ms. Leola M. Collins

Ms. Leola M. Collins
Upholsteress

"About 60% of higher education jobs are occupied by males."

Being a contributor to the academic growth of a student is self-rewarding and gives a teaching professional the opportunity to have an extrinsic source of self growth, thus providing also a source of continual professional maintenance.

Any female who has a high sense of dedication and responsibility to pursue this field of endeavor should do so.

My desire to motivate others, and a personal need to assist others keep me inspired. Being remembered by students as having made a significant contribution to their lives is a most pleasurable experience.

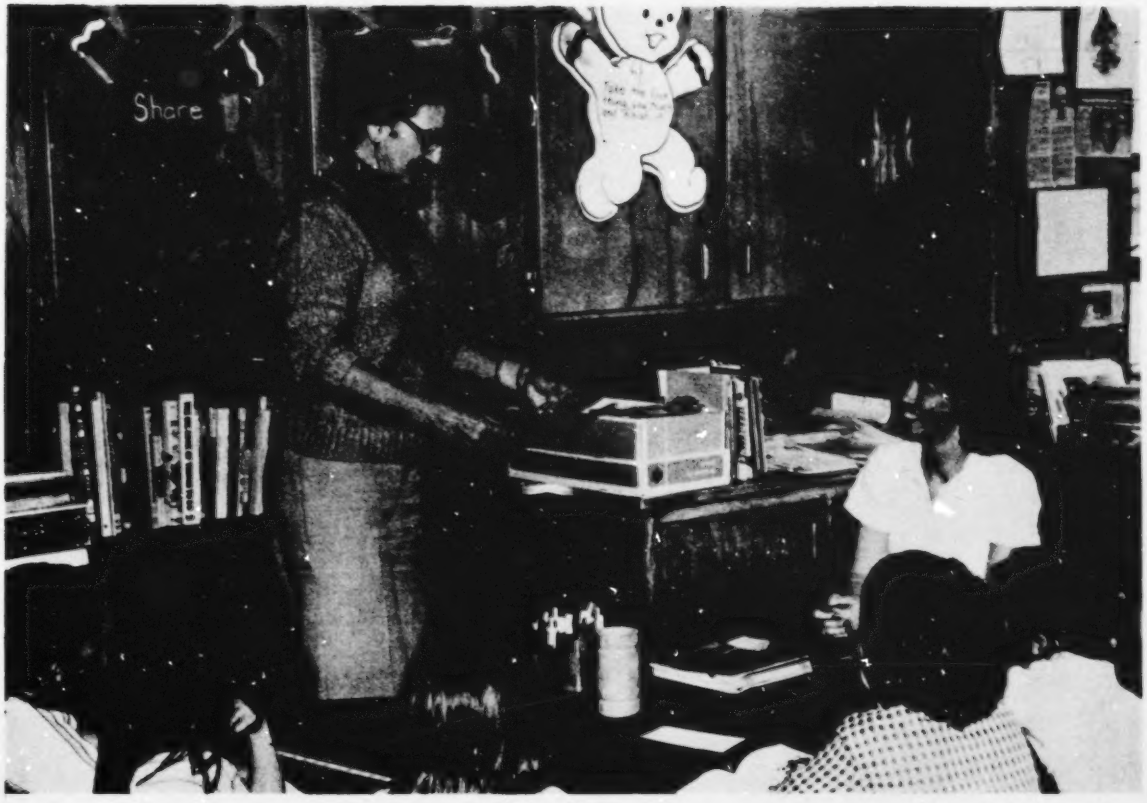
"Female instructors make the best coffee," remarked a male faculty member, jokingly.

As an assistant professor at Northeastern State University in Education/Psychology, my instructional load include teaching psychology on both undergraduate and graduate levels; faculty advisor for psychology students; supervision of graduate counselor of psychology; faculty representative; test evaluation for counseling psychodiagnostic.

Very seldom is there a dull moment; and I am always meeting new people, all of whom I find quite fascinating and eager to learn.

Bobbye A. Davis

Dr. Bobbye A. Davis
Assistant Professor-NSU
Education/Psychology


Share

"There's never a dull moment, being a Grade-school Principal."

Very rarely do you have two days alike. Sometimes the days drag by, sometimes they fly by. But the children are the best part of this job. They are so full of life and liveliness, some of this vitality seems to radiate to me.

A typical day? One of my responsibilities is to see that things are running as smoothly as possible in an elementary school, where the students could really throw me off schedule, but I just work around their interruptions.

I drop everything when one of them comes in wanting something. After all, what am I here for?

I try to make the principal's office a nice place to come for help, not a place to be dreaded.

Having an able-bodied, efficient office staff is definitely an asset to my work load. Professional teachers who work cohesively with me in helping to carry out this program is no exception to the rule of efficiency.

During the 1980-81 school year, there were only two female administrators, inclusive of self, however, we find that we are accepted by the male administrators, and all administrators in our school district have a close working rapport.

If you love to work with individuals both children and adults, and have patience and understanding for both groups, then I would recommend this line of work for you.

Geraldine Davis

Geraldine Davis, Principal
Tony Goetz Elementary School

"Satisfying is the one word I would use to describe my feeling toward my employment."

The special training required for this line of work include four weeks of workbooks, tapes, and "Live Board."

As an employee at Southwestern Bell Telephone you are given individual training with supervisors eager to help and support you. There is a union to protect your rights, and your ability to serve the public well will be your best incentive.

My most pleasurable experiences on this job have been gratifications I have received from those customers who are pleasant.

I was inspired to follow this field of endeavor because of the job security and the wide range of possible advancements.

As a telephone operator, I must be courteous, always display a pleasant voice, be friendly, competent, prompt, and give urgent calls immediate attention.

Even though a college degree is not a requirement to hold a position of this type, I have been greatly rewarded as a result of my college education. My work experience in the U.S. Army in communications, as an emergency medical technician, and as a physician's assistant have all helped to form the background that has been beneficial to my present work.

Experience everything you can. You'll enjoy some of the things you try; others you won't. That's good, because when you're planning how you're going to spend the rest of your life, it helps to know what you don't like to do, as well as what you do.

Ronald P. Fowler

Ronald P. Fowler, Telephone Operator
Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.

Finally. Fine limp hair can
defy gravity.
REDKEN ULTRA

"I attend every class possible to continue my knowledge and experience of helping to make others beautiful."

If you want to please people, work hard, make good money, and obtain a great deal of self satisfaction, you should consider a career in cosmetology.

Pleasing people, and training others to be successful stylists have been most pleasurable experiences for me.

I would recommend other males to follow this line of work, if they like to work hard and are willing to work with people.

Hair has always been fascinating to me, and this is one of the things that inspired me to follow this field of endeavor.

I have worked in this line of work for 17 years; have been employed at the present position for 14 years.

My education and experience include basic and advance training at Miami Beauty College, and have continued my professional training throughout my profession such as technical, chemical, business management and motivation.

For 17 years I have worked as a stylist, manager, and owner of my own business. I attend every class possible to continue my knowledge and experience in cosmetology.

I have won various awards in Oklahoma competition; have my own cosmetology instruction license, and teach different classes throughout the state.

Other honors and awards include chairman, advisory council, MHC Voc. Cosmetology Department, President, Green Country Cosmetologist Association; President of Muskogee Hairdressers Association; Chairman, Oklahoma Thunder-bird Hair Fashion Committee; Secretary, Oklahoma Cosmetology Association; 4th Vice-President, Oklahoma Cosmetology Association; Member, Board of Directors, Oklahoma Cosmetologist Association.

I enjoy my work and get a deep satisfaction from making others look beautiful.

Charles Gosvener

Charles Gosvener
Paragon Hair Designers

"I get to meet a lot of people as a result of my job of Enforcing the law and maintaining the safety of others."

If you can work under pressure and stress, then you can handle the job of security officer.

Why did I become a security officer? It's simple--I like to meet people, and I get a personal satisfaction of helping to maintain the safety of others.

I have been working on law-related jobs for the past five years; as security officer for two years. Some of my relatives are law officers. They, together with my college advisors, encouraged me to pursue this line of work. I'm glad they did!

The one word that describes my feelings toward my employment is "challenging." It has been a challenge, but I have proved that just because I am a woman, I can do my job just as well as my male counterparts.

I've had some really great jobs, like traffic control on the high school campus; preventing vandalism of vehicles, stopping trespassers, and related work in conjunction with the Muskogee Police Department.

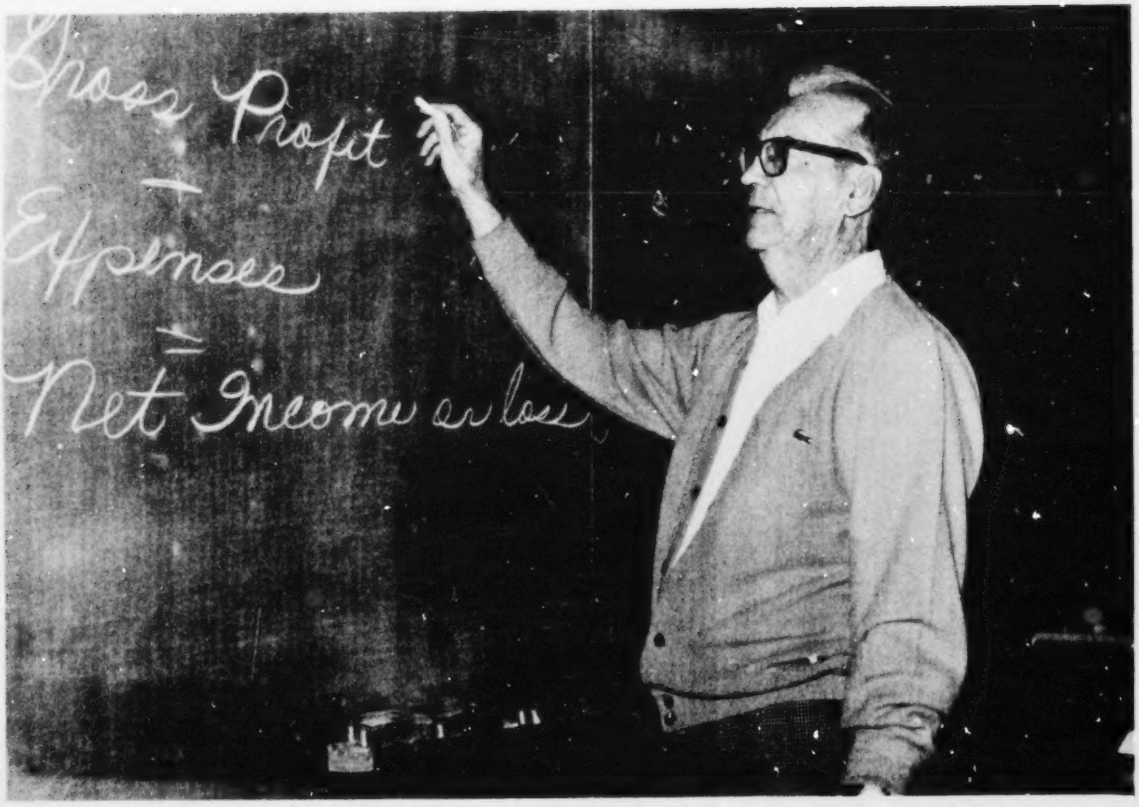
As an employee of the Moonlight Security, Incorporated, my job descriptions are varied.

Money is another reason I became a security officer. It's good being paid well for doing work that you like.

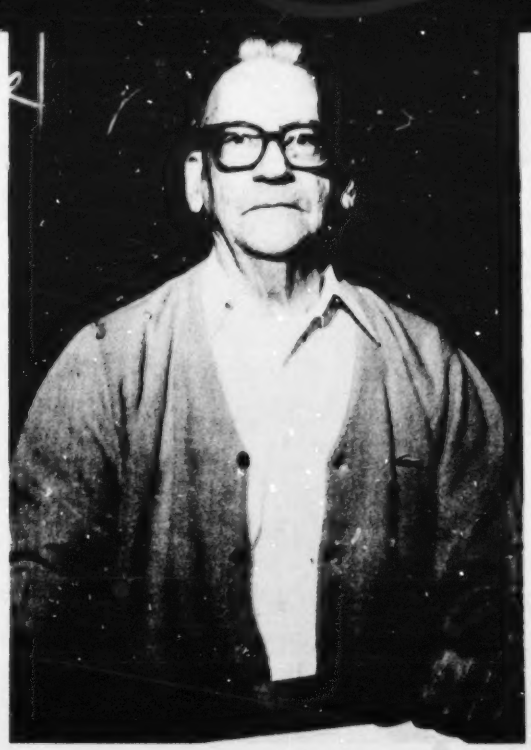
If you want people to respect you for doing an important job, consider being a security officer. Study your law, become involved in physical activities in school and enjoy criminal justice in college.

Margaret E. Hance

Margaret E. Hance
Security Officer


Gross Profit
–
Expenses
=
Net Income or loss

"I find the success of former students in the businessworld most pleasurable."



As a male classroom teacher, and auditor of the school's finances, I have found that the enjoyment I have received as a teacher and as an accountant together with the success of former students in the businessworld to be most rewarding.

The salary for this type position will not come close to what a person could make working as an accountant in an industry, but we need teachers, male teachers in the business field, and the school needs good finance auditors.

I have received work experience and special training as an accountant with Boeing Aircraft Co., and have been working as an accountant and teacher for 32 years.

In one word, I would describe my feelings toward my present employment: "Contented."

My former experiences and educational background from Northeastern State College, George Peabody College, Tulsa University, and Oklahoma State University, have provided me with a strong background in this field.

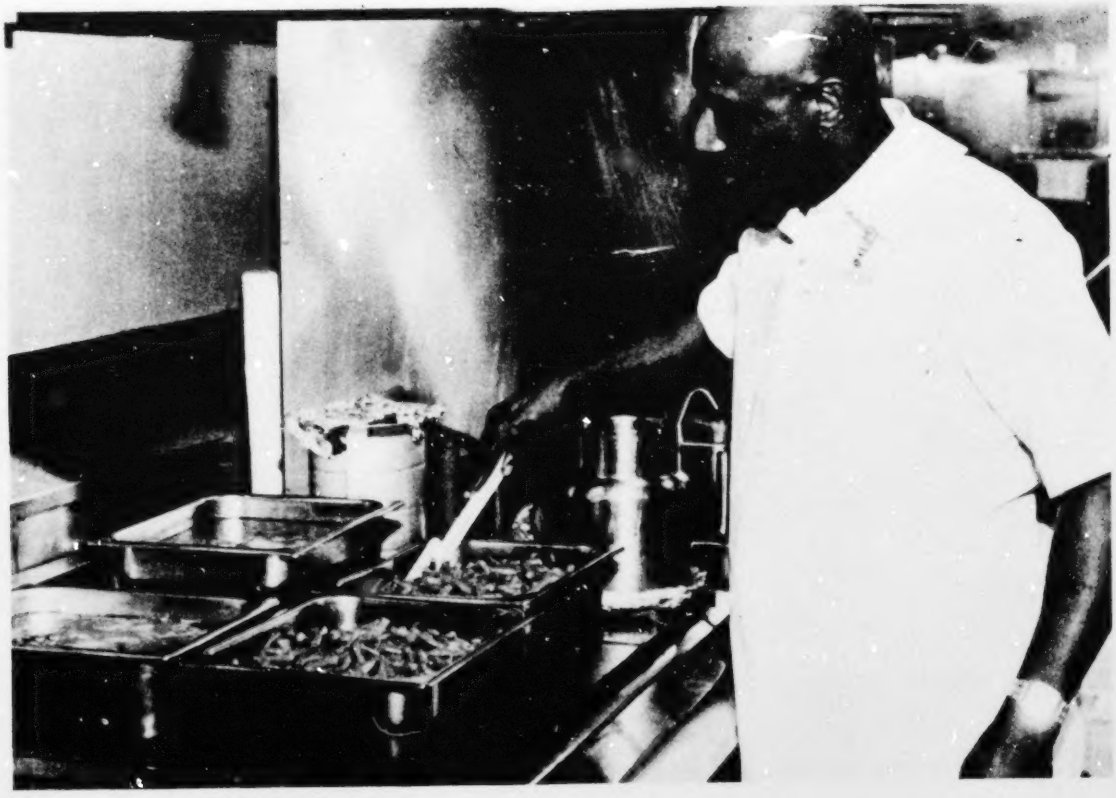
If you love to work with people, and get an enjoyment out of working with figures, and can obtain a strong background in accounting, then I would advise you to pursue this line of work.

It isn't easy, but what notable profession is?

Take plenty of business subjects, especially Accounting I and II, and typing classes will be of benefit to you also.

James K Higdon

Kenneth K. Higdon Teacher
Auditor of Finance - Muskogee High School



"A compliment given by patients of MGH is a reward in itself for this job"

wo years of commercial cooking, training as a ok's assistant prepared me for my present sition at which I have been employed for 14 ars. Inspired by my older brothers, I have llowed this line of work for the past 18 years.

aving patients tell you "they enjoyed their eals" is a reward in itself.

you are interested in different diets, and in what u or anyone else can or cannot eat, then I commend this line of work to either (male) or male.

eceived two years training at Manual Training gh School in commercial cooking from Mrs. arshall, after which I worked at the Tulsa shop Restaurant for a short time.

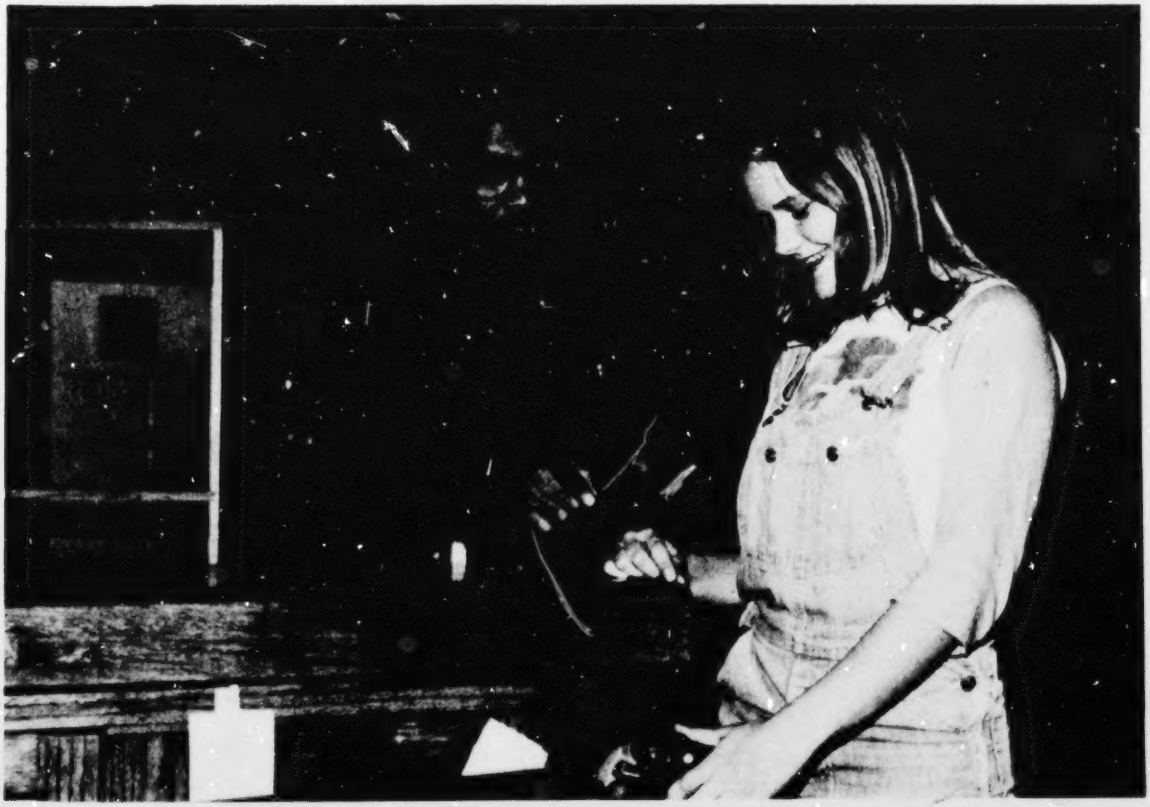
My wife, Kaye, and I have five children. I cook at home occasionally. The children seldom, teasingly, remark "I can tell who cooked today." Kaye is a good cook, though. My job title at Muskogee General Hospital is "Food Production." My work load consists of eight hours per day, five days per week, cooking two meals per day.

I am the only male cook at Muskogee General Hospital, and I enjoy my work tremendously.

I would like to encourage male students to consider this line of work--the pay is good; the work is appetizing and enjoyable.

Donald Eugene Jones

Donald Eugene Jones
Food Production Employee
Muskogee General Hospital



"Seeing the End-Product of my work is a most pleasurable experience."

It's fun, but hard work, being a cabinetmaking student. I took vocational cabinetmaking at Muskogee High School for 3 years.

My devotion toward the class and my involvement in the vocational organization provided me with the training and stamina to endure work experiences with companies such as Capps Lumber, dealing in sells; Big Johns Home Improvement; and my current position with Mac Whitaker Home Builders and Sales provide me with experiences such as set ups, sizing, pasting, and hanging wall paper. I also place light fixtures in new homes.

It is always a thrill to see the beauty in a finished job.

Being 5'6" and 125 lbs. did not limit my ability to perform in the classroom, nor on the job.

My mother, who also works in a similar line of work, and my vocational teacher, Mr. A. C. Richardson, were incentives to me in encouraging me that I could succeed in this field.

I am convinced now that any female who desires to follow this line of work should get the training provided by our high school. You should try it. I'm glad I did!

Kim Johnson

Kim Johnson, former MHS student
Mac Whitaker Home Builders
and Sales, Employee

"I see between 130-150 patients weekly, dealing mainly with diseases of the skin, hair, and nails."

I perform an average of 25-30 minor surgical procedures a week in my office. The practice of dermatology gives me the opportunity to see people of different ages and sexes, and thereby allows me a unique experience of keeping in touch with many more groups that I would see otherwise.

I work with two other wonderful women, and we have a very compatible working relationship.

My practice is primarily office-based, although occasionally I need to go to the hospital to consult with other doctors about skin problems on inpatients.

An average of 8-10 hours weekly is spent reading current journals pertinent to dermatology.

If you are a bright student, willing to work diligently and consistently with empathy for your patients, you can succeed as a physician. You don't have to be the top student in your class to achieve this.

The one word I would use to describe my feelings toward my line of work is "GREAT!"

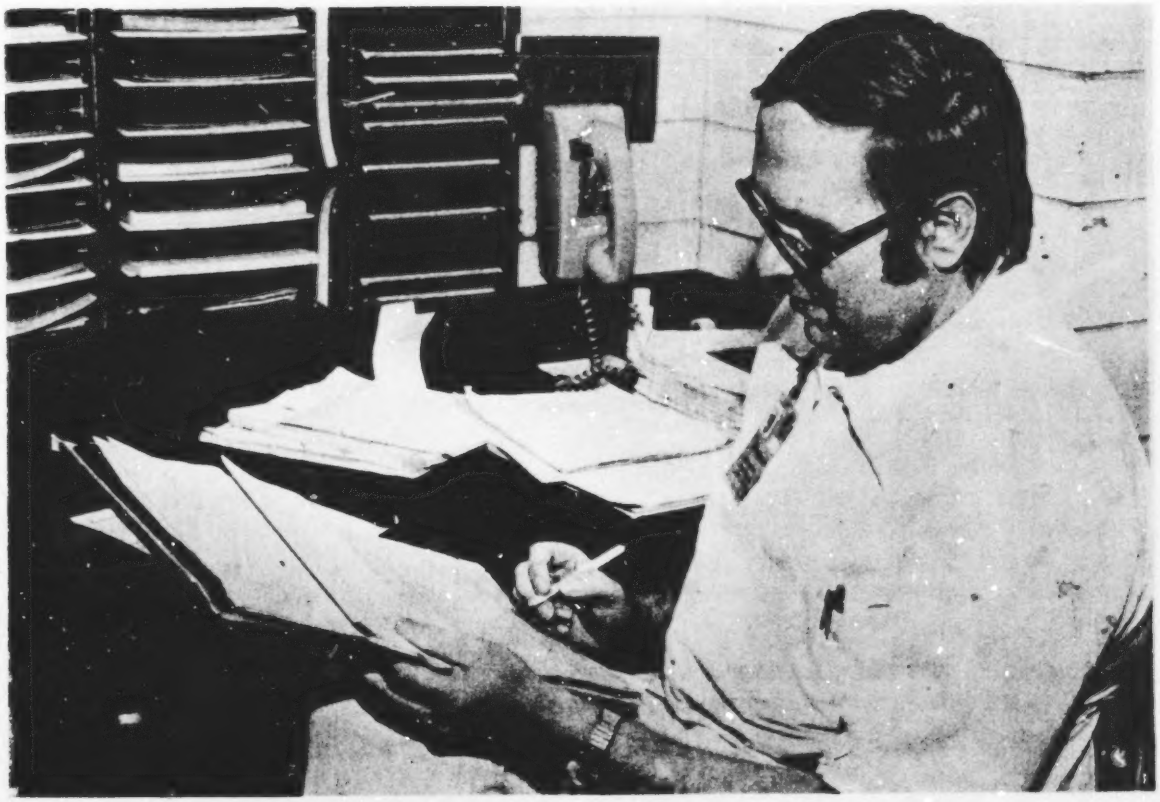
It is a thrill for me to diagnose and treat rare skin diseases in patients who previously had not been accurately diagnosed.

I am self-employed. This enables me to work with people in a scientific pursuit, and still have time to be a mother.

The special training required for this job was 4 years of medical school, 1 year of internship, and 3 years residency. I succeeded, you can, too!

Susan Basolo Kennedy, MD

Susan B. Kennedy
Dermatologist



"Nursing is a very broad field"

There are many different types of positions in hospital work from private practice to business administration. Anyone interested in the field of medicine should check fully into all the different opportunities open to nurses.

I have been employed at my present position for seven years. I was inspired by a friend and would personally recommend any male who is interested in this line of work to pursue it. For the most part a male nurse is paid the same as a female nurse. Sometimes they are paid more because they lift patients or carry patients around.

The employment outlook for "male" nurses is expected to be favorable through the 1980's.

Employment conditions are indoor work, in well-lighted, comfortable buildings.

I have spent eight years in nursing and seven years on the orthopedic floor. My feelings toward my employment, past and present, described in one word is, "excellent."

Earl Minneman

Earl Minneman, Nurse
Muskogee General Hospital

"I am the first female to hold this position in Muskogee County, however, there are several other females with similar positions throughout our state."

Through the realization that more qualified, honest, hard-working individuals were needed to fill positions as elected officials, I became inspired to run for the office of Muskogee County Clerk.

In January, 1981, I assumed my official duties, and have found that it is quite fulfilling being associated with and working with a group of dedicated employees who have the same goals and ideals that I have--to serve the public in a professional and most efficient way possible.

Having a good background in public relations and business have been extremely beneficial to me.

As an elected public official I have strong beliefs and principles. George Elliot tells us that the "Strongest principle of growth lies in human choice."

Just because you are a male or a female, don't limit your choices to those things that are traditional. If you have the desire to do those things that are non-traditional, first get all the facts; second prepare yourselves early in life; third, build and maintain self confidence, then, "spread your wings, and fly!"

Betty Pace

Betty Pace
Muskogee County Clerk

"The Future Farmers of America class and organization provides many benefits for ME, TOO."

I am a 17 year old senior at Muskogee High School enrolled in the Future Farmers of America class, and a member of the FFA organization.

Our Motto: "Learning to do; Doing to learn; Earning to live; Living to serve," best summarizes the course. This is a course every student should be exposed to, both male and female.

In this course we learn farm business management; learn to keep farm records, inventories; tax management; leadership and careers; soil science, livestock diseases (immunity, treatment, and prevention, to mention a few of the areas.

The organization concentrates on the duties and responsibilities of FFA members; parliamentary procedure and public speaking; planning and implementing the supervised occupational experience program, etc.

The experiences received in the class and in the organization are worthy for establishing the total student.

I am 5'2", 107 lbs., and I find no difficulty in performing the required duties of the course.

I love animals, outdoors, farm life, meeting people, and the various other involvements that FFA provides for its students.

Girls, if you want plenty of excitement; if you love a variety of interesting experiences with animals, livestock and want to get a well rounded background in farm life, then FFA is for you. There is a role for the female on the farm and in farm-related activities. Enroll in FFA and learn more about these adventures. I did, and I'm glad I did!

Lori Trent

Lori Trent
Muskogee High FFA Student

"As General Manager of Muskogee Motor Inn, my responsibilities are varried."

I find motel management challenging. My enjoyment in working with people helps me to meet the many challenges that go along with this line of work.

I have been employed at my present position for only four months. At times, I have experienced physical stress and strain as a result of this employment, but not more than would result on any other job.

For 10 years, I was a restaurant owner; for 12 years, I worked as a beautician. I find motel management a great field to get into. My feelings toward this line of work is: "Fantastic."

As general manager of Muskogee Motor Inn, I am responsible for the motel part with 122 rooms, restaurant management; lounge, and I write all checks for everything in the establishment.

During my tenure here at Muskogee Motor Inn, I find it most gratifying in working with the school system, as well as other professional establishments.

Some of my responsibilities along these lines are:
1) Arranging meeting rooms, within the motel for conferences, workshops, conventions, guests to the school, and general professional meetings.
2) Keeping the public aware of these meetings via billboard announcement, dates, organizations' names, and meeting rooms.
3) Alerting the public of special weeks, such as Vo-Ed Week; and others, upon the request of these organizations.

It has been my findings that good public relations is "good for all concerned."

Juanita Young

Ms. Juanita Young, Motel Manager
Muskogee Motor Inn

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Stillwater, Oklahoma

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If you're interested in non-traditional jobs. . .

talk to your teachers, counselors, parents and community models. They can tell you more about different kinds of non-traditional jobs, and what subjects you should enroll in to enable you to become qualified to hold one of these jobs.

Go to the library, too. Tell the librarian you'd like to learn about non-traditional jobs, and you will be directed to the right books such as occupational handbooks, career decision manuals.

You'll find non-traditional jobs more exciting than you can imagine. Best of all, you can be what you want to be. The sky is your limit, so. . .

"Spread your wings and fly."

MUSKOGEE HIGH SCHOOL does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, veteran status, qualified handicap or disability.

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